

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 04641 121518Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 IO-10

/083 W

----- 079213

R 121422Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6642

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT

CINCLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCES REDUCTION PROPOSALS

REF: (A) USNATO 4942

(B) THE HAGUE 4558

1. SUMMARY. GON IS OBVIOUSLY LABORING UNDER URGENT AND UNPRECEDENTED BUDGETARY PRESSURES. THESE WILL COME INTO CLEAR PUBLIC FOCUS DURING FORMAL OPENING OF PARLIAMENT SEPTEMBER 16. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT CONTINUED ALLIED PRESSURE, AS SUGGESTED BY USNATO, REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 04641 121518Z

BOTH USEFUL TO MINIMIZE NETHERLANDS NAVAL FORCE REDUCTIONS

AS WELL AS ESSENTIAL IN TERMS OF GON PERCEPTION OF CONSEQUENCES OF ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP. AMBASSADOR TOOK RECENT OCCASION TO REMIND FONMIN OF GRAVE CONCERN WITH WHICH USG REGARDS PROPOSED REDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER (THE HAGUE 3427-NOTAL) GON IS FACING SERIOUS BUDGETARY DIFFICULTIES. THESE HAVE BEEN COMING TO HEAD AS MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN GEARING UP TO SEPTEMBER 16, WHEN QUEEN JULIANA WILL FORMALLY OPEN PARLIAMENT AND OUTLINE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET. WE ARE REPEATING TO USNATO, FOR BACKGROUND, THE HAGUE 4614, WHICH CONTAINS LATEST INFORMATION AND SHOWS ANTICIPATED BUDGET DEFICIT OF HFL 16.7 BILLION (1975 DEFICIT ESTIMATED AT HFL 9 BILLION AND 1974 DEFICIT WAS HFL 5.1 BILLION). PRESSURE FOR CUTS IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IS THUS ACUTE AND, FOR REASONS EXPLAINED IN THE HAGUE 4258, DEFENSE IS NOT IMMUNE, WITH NAVY AS MOST OBVIOUS TARGET.

3. GIVEN THE LINE WE HAVE TAKEN WITH OUR ALLIES AND WITH GON, AND IN PARTICULAR GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY BE SOME ROOM TO KEEP NEPTUNES FLYING BEYOND JAN 1, 1976, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR TO GON OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT PROPOSED REDUCTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE LEARNED AUTHORITATIVELY THAT NETHERLANDS NAVY WAS PLANNING TO ARGUE IN SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING OF NETHERLANDS DEFENSE COUNCIL (TOP LEADERSHIP OF MIN DEF AND NETHS MILREPS) THAT LAYING-UP OF SEVEN PROVINCIEN AS PROPOSED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BUT THAT NAVY BELIEVED THAT AS A MINIMUM EIGHT NEPTUNES MUST BE KEPT FLYING.

4. WE ALSO SHARE THE VIEW THAT, IN ANY EVENT, WE SHOULD REGISTER OUR CONCERN SO AS TO UNDERSCORE, TO DUTCH AND OTHERS, OBLIGATIONS OF COMMON POLICY, DEFENSE AND CONSULTATION PRACTICES, WHICH DEVOLVE FROM MEMBERSHIP IN ALLIANCE.

5. IN RECENT WEEKEND DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS GRAVE CONCERN WITH WHICH IS REGARDED PROPOSED FORCE REDUCTIONS. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT ISSUE NOT ONLY HAD MILITARY DIMENSION BUT IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES SINCE DUTCH PROPOSAL WAS TANTAMOUNT TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 04641 121518Z

TO UNILATERAL STAND-DOWN BY ONE MEMBER OF NATO FORCE. AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED UNFORTUNATE ASPECTS OF TIMING, SINCE DUTCH PROPOSAL GAVE IMPRESSION WEST WAS RELAXING ITS GUARD AFTER CSCE. IN RESPONSE TO VAN DER STOEL'S SUGGESTION, AMBASSADOR INTENDS PURSUE MATTER WITH FONMIN IN LATTER'S OFFICE WHEN HE RETURNS FROM VENICE EC-9 MEETING.

6. LINE SUGGESTED BY USNATO FOR SEPTEMBER 17 DPC SEEMS EXCEL-

LENT TO US. WE LEAVE IT TO USNATO'S JUDGMENT HOW BEST TO
MEASURE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF MAKING NATO ALLIANCE POSITION PUB-
LIC. WE HAVE IN MIND POSSIBILITY THAT TOO PUBLIC NATO CNSURE
MIGHT BE PICKED UPHERE BY LEFT WNG ELEMENTS OF LABOR
PARTY AND MAKE POSSIBLE HELPFUL ROLE OF LABOR FONMIN AND
DEFMIN MORE RATHER THAN LESS DIFFICULT.
GOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MILITARY BUDGET, MILITARY POLICIES, TROOP REDUCTIONS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA04641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750316-0925
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750956/aaaabxhc.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NATO BRUSSELS 4942
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NETHERLANDS MARITIME FORCES REDUCTION PROPOSALS
TAGS: MPOL, NL, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006